

REMARKS

This application pertains to a novel process for preparing UV-transparent pressure-sensitive adhesives, having a UV transparency at 300 nm of more than 95%. In the process, an acrylic copolymer composition is formed having a weight average molecular weight of less than 300,000 g/mol, and from 2 to 20% by weight of a silicate filler having a maximum particle diameter of 50 nm is mixed into the copolymer composition.

Claims 1 to 9 are pending.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Heimerl (US 5,011,492) in view of Nielsen (US 6,458,886) and Hosokawa (US 2003/102081).

The Examiner acknowledges that Heimerl is completely silent with regard to molecular weight and silicate filler (not to mention silicate filler having a maximum particle diameter of 50 nm!). The Examiner turns to Nielsen for a pressure sensitive adhesive having a molecular weight of 300,000; and turns to Hosokawa for a clay filler. The Examiner then argues that it would be obvious to apply Nielsen's molecular weight and Hosokawa's clay to Heimerl's adhesive.

Heimerl's adhesive is an acrylate/methacrylate copolymer.

Nielsen's pressure sensitive adhesive is a styrene-isoprene-styrene diblock based composition, however. No person skilled in the art would translate anything

about Nielson's styrene/isoprene block copolymers, including their molecular weight or any other property, to Heimerl's acrylics. The two are in completely different fields of polymer science, and nothing about one suggests anything at all about the other. There is no basis upon which any molecular weight range found in Nielsen would have any relevance whatsoever to Heimerl. Therefore, Heimerl and Nielsen would never and, in fact, could never be combined.

Furthermore, the Hosokawa reference has nothing to do with the addition of silicate particles having maximum particle diameters of 50 nm to an adhesive composition. Hosokawa is concerned with intercalated clay fillers. In Example 1, Hosokawa uses layered saponite clay mineral filler.

Applicants did a Google search of Saponite, and found the annexed "General Saponite Information" sheet (4 pages) which includes an image of a saponite particle, which is "up to 6 mm" in size. Given this, it is clear that Hosokawa's examples certainly do not exemplify any particles as small as Applicants' silicate filler.

Moreover, Hosokawa generally refers to clay fillers. Applicants annex a page from Hawley's Chemical Dictionary, which indicates the particle size range of clay as being from 150 microns to less than one micron. 1 micron is 1,000 nm; so here again, Hosokawa cannot in any way be seen as suggesting anything about the addition of silicate filler having a maximum particle size of 50 nm.

Accordingly, no combination would ever be made of the Heimerl, Nielsen and

Hosokawa references, and even if somehow a combination were "forced", this combination of references could never lead to Applicants' novel process.

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Heimerl (US 5,011,492) in view of Nielsen (US 6,458,886) and Hosokawa (US 2003/102081) should accordingly now be withdrawn.

In view of the present remarks it is believed that claims 1-9 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

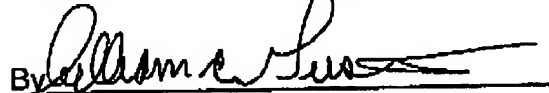
If any extension of time for this response is required, Appellants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit Account

No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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By 
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WCG/zs

Encl-"General Saponite Information" (4 sheets)

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile, no. (703) 872-9306 to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 14, 2005.

By _____
Zsuzsa Schuster
Date January 14, 2005